



CHRIS CHRISTIE  
GOVERNOR

KIM GUADAGNO  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

PO BOX 726  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0726

Visit us on the web at :  
[www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd)

Jennifer Velez  
COMMISSIONER

Dawn Apgar  
Deputy Commissioner  
TEL. (609) 631-2200

## The Supports Program

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The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) is in the development stages of a new program called the Supports Program, which will provide needed supports and services for adult individuals, 21 and older, living with their families or in their own unlicensed homes. It has been designed to help New Jersey better serve adults with developmental disabilities, significantly reduce the number of individuals waiting for supports and services, and enhance the State's ability to receive a federal "match" (\$.50 on the dollar) for services that are currently funded via state-only funding.

Once implemented, employment and day services, as well as all family support services – for both individuals currently being served and new individuals – will run through the Supports Program. With the exception of anyone enrolled on the Community Care Waiver (CCW), all adult individuals who are eligible for both DDD services and Medicaid will be able to access the Supports Program. The Supports Program is one of several important reforms included in the State's proposed Comprehensive Medicaid Waiver (CMW).

Here are some highlights of the Supports Program:

It will provide adults with developmental disabilities with employment services (and day services needed to supplement their employment), in addition to a virtual "budget" with which they can purchase additional needed services (such as respite, camp, and assistive technology, etc.) on a fee-for-service basis.

- Individuals will be assessed and assigned an "up to" budget amount within one of three levels: \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$15,000 based on their assessed level of need. This budget will not include the individual's employment and day services, which will be separately budgeted, also based on need.
- Individuals and their families will have the flexibility to choose the options and opportunities for support services that will best meet their needs.
- Individuals will have access to professionals – called "Support Coordinators" – to assist them in developing their individualized Service Plan and linking them to appropriate services. Individuals will also have access to a "fiscal intermediary" which will ensure payments are made to the approved service providers based on the individual's budget.
- It will provide individuals with developmental disabilities with the opportunity to combine services from state and local community resources. For example, individuals will be able to use employment and day services, respite, individual supports, and after-program care through DDD within their family home, or even with housing assistance from the local housing authority, allowing those with less intensive needs to live independently.

The Supports Program will help New Jersey maximize federal revenue and enhance community supports for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities resulting in meaningful system improvements for all.

To learn more about the Supports Program visit the Division of Developmental Disabilities website regularly for updates:  
<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/home/index.html>.